

PRESIDENT WORKING HARD FOR ADMINISTRATION BILLS

Trying to Induce Congress to Stop Politics
and Carry Through Important
Legislation.

By Ernest G. Walker.

(Mail Special to The Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, April 27. — "Big Bill" is stirring things up again. The dilatory lawmakers are now trekking once more to the White House portals this week to answer the summons and give an account of themselves. The President wants to know. He is aware that it is hard to pull the legislative load. It always is hard to get big measures of general legislation safely through the congressional channels. But when the President insists upon a little more acceleration, it helps the leaders and conditions are most often improved.

He is dinging away on those old, old subjects, which, however, are very important to the administration and to the Republican party. There is no quick hustling around corners and no taking of new positions by the present incumbent of the White House. "Pass my railroad bill," he keeps saying to senators and representatives. "Pass my postal savings bank bill," he adds, "and don't forget my antitrust bill and my conservation bills. The party is pledged to all those matters of legislation."

When he has delivered such messages to the congressional visitors at his offices, the President has by no means concluded. He is willing to help work out the problems. If the discussion and consideration, in progress at the Capitol, develop fresh difficulties and demonstrates the necessity for some compromise or redrafting, the President shows himself ready to cooperate on those identical lines. He has said again and again that he is only after the principles involved. He wants to be practical, but nevertheless he wants the legislation.

It is not his purpose to keep thumping away at the senate and the house all of the time. He lets up for a season and then he goes at it again. That has been his method all winter long. His recent activities are only renewed evidence of his persistence. It is winning him admiration even from critics. He pursues his course without a shadow of a turning and folks at Washington say that will not only bring about the enactment of the bills in question but will stimulate the American people before the summer and autumn have passed to make up a favorable verdict for his administration. It is sometimes intimated that the country has hardly yet become acquainted with the sterling qualities of the President.

Asking for Much.

There have been many protests to the President that he is asking too much of congress, that the load is a heavy one to carry, that senators and representatives are growing weary and anxious to get home where they can be free from the cares of legislation and look after their political fences. But the President reminds them that he, too, is growing weary of the long struggle and would gladly see the end of congress so that he could get away to Beverly, the summer capital, where he could attend solely to pressing federal business and look after party interests in State and national campaigns. For, after all, he is quite as much interested as any senator or representative, in the outcome of the fall elections and must devote a deal of attention to them. While it is very true that congressmen must look out this early for political developments at home, the President is also keeping an eye out upon the divers States where the political battle is already waging.

Part Will Satisfy.

He has "eased up" a little on the legislators, as demonstrated during a series of conferences in recent days. He has said that he will be satisfied if one or two of his measures are passed through senate and house and put into conference. He is willing that the conferees should conclude their labors thereon during the short session of congress next winter. That will obviate the necessity of congress remaining in session while the conferees deliberate, but as a bill in conference is fairly certain of being enacted into law the President feels that he could

go before the people with the statement that he had made substantial progress toward the fulfillment of party pledges. The long pull and the hard pull is generally to push a measure of general legislation through the senate and the house. Then the opposition yields in good part.

Tariff Investigation.

He realizes there are contentions in other matters which properly can occupy the time of congress to a degree. He is insisting upon an appropriation for his tariff board. That apparently means a hard fight, but a successful fight. He wants a thorough investigation of the tariff law. The leaders are disposed to grant that but there must be debate and deliberation over it. There is naval legislation, which the President regards as indispensable. He will not want congress to adjourn till that is settled. And he is well aware that it is unreasonable to ask too much of congress at one session.

Big Stick Ready.

During the last week the President has talked things over with practically all the leaders of senate and house and arrived at a fresh understanding. Where there was unwillingness to acquiesce, he showed a willingness to swing the big stick. The Postal Savings Bank Bill, for instance, has stuck hard around in the house postoffice committee. "Get it out of committee and through the house," said the President, "or I will call in the insurgents and treat with them. I am trying to work through the instrumentalities regularly authorized, but if I can't get in that way what the people want, I must try other expedients."

Two or three times this winter the President has stimulated fresh legislative activities through the cooperation of his Ohio delegation in the house. It has come to be a sign of "something doing," when the Ohio Republicans of the house receive invitations to the White House for a conference at night. There are staunch administration supporters in that delegation, including Representative Nicholas Longworth, of Cincinnati, the son-in-law of ex-President Roosevelt. After the President has talked things over with these Buckeye congressmen they go back to the house and stir actively around in the President's behalf. This is what they are doing this week.

Too Much Politics.

The work that the President wants done would have been much further advanced at this stage, had there not been so much tumultuous politics this winter. The insurgents of senate and house are undoubtedly responsible in some part for this condition. The house was diverted from the ordinary procedure for more than a week by the fight to remove Speaker Cannon from the rules committee. That was the biggest of numerous like incidents, which have been strewn along through the session. Such a large body as the house is easily upset by political agitation. Congress accomplishes most when its members are able to concentrate their minds upon the bills under consideration and when there is no unusual discussion throughout the country. Under the circumstances it is noteworthy that senate and house have done as much as they have, considering the disorganizing influences that have been constantly brought to bear.

During the trying period, however, the Republican leaders have sought to keep their hold on the situation. The President has steadily cooperated with them to that end, but he has not lost sight of the objects in mind for his administration. He has kept out of the muddles of politics as much as he possibly could. Whenever there has been a lull in political interest he has returned to the legislative fray with new energy. This has done much to convince congress that the President could not be diverted by his political enemies and that he had abundant courage to stick it out.

The slogan now is adjournment by June 1. Four or five weeks more of congress are all the President thinks should be necessary. But he wants those bills passed in the meantime. There will be discouraging days but the prospects are all excellent that he will have his way.

MAY ABOLISH COLLECTORSHIP

A Proposed Liquor Law Opposed
by Revenue Agent
Thomas.

If the Territory of Hawaii goes prohibition at the coming special election, and the Supreme Court of the United States decides that the corporation income tax is unconstitutional, and the legislature of the Territory of Hawaii enacts a new liquor law making the payment of an internal revenue special tax prima facie evidence of the sale of liquor, the internal revenue district of Hawaii may be abolished and the office of collector of internal revenue fall into desuetude.

Revenue Agent Thomas, who for weeks has been investigating affairs in connection with the local internal revenue office, is authority for the statement. Referring yesterday morning to the proposal to have a law enacted making the payment of an internal revenue tax prima facie evidence of the sale of liquor, Mr. Thomas made the statement that such a law would not only ruin the collectorship, but would work a great injustice to many people. "That law," he said, "has been tried in many States and has proven so much of a failure that it has had to be repealed."

Mr. Thomas stated that, although he would make no such recommendation himself, still he thought it extremely probable that in the event of any such combination of circumstances as those mentioned above the office of collector of internal revenue for the district of Hawaii would be abolished and a deputy collectorship substituted, for the reason that there would be nothing for a collector to do.

It is the enactment of a law making the payment of a special tax prima facie evidence of the sale of liquor to which Mr. Thomas especially objects. This, he said, would mean that many doctors would be arrested and have to appear in court, for the reason that a large number of doctors have to pay a special internal revenue tax in order to write prescriptions for medicines containing alcohol. Also some of the doctors, especially those in the country districts, carry their own little stock of medicines, and as alcohol is used in some of them they have to pay the special tax. But under such a law as that proposed they would be liable to arrest for running blind pigs.

Furthermore, said Mr. Thomas, druggists who sell patent medicines containing a certain percentage of alcohol have to pay a special tax, and such a law would render them liable to arrest and trial.

Mr. Thomas stated that Berkeley, California, tried a local law such as that suggested and had to abandon it for the reasons given above. "That law won't work," he said, "and furthermore the United States internal revenue department has no desire to play detective for the territorial government."

Mr. Thomas said that he was not making his statement with any idea of opposing prohibition, because he wanted to keep out of that fight, but for the best interests of the department he represents.

HAWAII PLANTERS WILL NOT BE CALLED

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4.—Western sugar barons sighed with relief yesterday, for, after more than a week of searching examination into their trade secrets before the federal grand jury, Special Prosecutor James K. Knapp, sent from New York to put the sugar companies on the grill, announced that, so far as he knew, his work was at an end for the present. Knapp will leave for Washington tomorrow and in an extended report will acquaint Attorney-General Wickersham in detail with the evidences of an illegal combination in restraint of trade disclosed by the testimony of half a hundred witnesses.

Knapp has been endeavoring to secure proof that the big western sugar companies are united in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

"Under the provisions of the Sherman law," the special prosecutor said yesterday, "all testimony taken in regard to an alleged infringement of that law must be submitted to the attorney-general himself before action is taken."

This means that the federal grand jury can not return an indictment at this time, no matter how startling the evidence presented to its attention may have been. If Wickersham believes testimony has been given proving that the companies are in an illegal combination, an indictment will then be returned by the grand jury. No papers have been placed on file in this case.

It is said that some startling testimony has developed in the hearing, especially from officers of the independent sugar companies. It has been declared that a combination exists among the great sugar interests which regulates prices, determines rates and results in many hardships to the smaller concerns.

Several minor cases were to come up before the grand jury yesterday, but no time was found to consider them. Postal Inspector James O'Connell appeared with a number of witnesses in a case he has for consideration, but it was postponed.

DEATH FROM DROWNING AND CAUSE UNKNOWN

The body of A. Landblom, a sailor who was formerly a member of the "Cannons" crew of the ship W. F. Bismarck, was found floating in the water near the Mowea Bay wharf yesterday morning. A Hawaiian sailor was on duty in the water and when inspection revealed a body of a man, the Hawaiian diver and secured the body and with assistance of others on the wharf it was brought out. The

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